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Russia, US agree joint push for peace in Syria

MOSCOW (AFP) - The United States and Russia on Tuesday agreed to push both warring sides in the Syria conflict to find a negotiated solution and to hold an international conference in search of peace.

Visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry held hours of talks with President Vladimir Putin and then Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov lasting late into the night in a bid to narrow the differences between Moscow and Washington on the conflict.

"We agreed that Russia and the United States will encourage both the Syria government and opposition groups to find a political solution," Lavrov told reporters at a concluding news conference that ended after midnight.

Lavrov added they agreed on the need to hold "as soon as possible" an international conference on Syria to convince both rebels and the regime to accept the terms of the Geneva accord agreed by

world powers last June for a peaceful solution in Syria.

He said the conference should take place "if possible by the end of this month."

The Geneva agreement, which was reached by world powers on June 30, set out a path toward a transitional government without ever spelling out what President Bashar al-Assad's fate should be.

Kerry said the conference should be held as "soon as is practical."

"Its specific work will be to bring members of the government and the opposition together to see how we can implement the language of the communique," said Kerry.

Kerry added: "A negotiated settlement is the essential means to ending the bloodshed in Syria."

Lavrov said both the United States and Russia were ready to use all their capacities to bring "the government and opposition to the negotiating table."

Europe Meets the Americas: Smits and Brinkhorst answer the question "Why Aruba?"



Left: Laurens Jan Brinkhorst and at right: Simon Smits

On Monday morning, May 6, the inaugural Europe Meets the Americas Conference began sessions in the Palm Beach Ballroom of the Westin Aruba Resort. 747 delegates representing over 20 nations and 240 companies from Europe, the Caribbean, US and Latin America, will network for three days to see how doing business, with Aruba as a central hub, can be mutually beneficial.

The question many would ask, "Why liaison through Aruba and not directly?" was answered by speakers Simon Smits, Director-General for External Economic Relations of the Netherlands, and Laurens Jan Brinkhorst, Former Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, who completed the early morning welcome round of speeches. Delegates had already been impressed by the presentations by Aruba's Minister of Economic & Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, followed by Minister of Finance, Communications, Utilities and Energy, Mike de Mesa and Minister of Tourism, Trans-

port & Labor, Otmar Oduber, as well as the vision driving this effort to diversify Aruba's economy, as related by Prime Minister Mike Eman.

However, it was Smits and Brinkhorst, advocates of the concept of establishing Aruba as a conduit for European nations, particularly Holland, doing business in Latin America and the region, who best brought forward impartial arguments for Dutch delegates considering long term trade missions.

Mr. Smits admitted, "Entrepreneurs should ask these questions, before going into any venture or joining an economic mission...first of all...why not go to a Latin American country directly? Granted, some big companies may be able to go it on their own. You will have to be able to pick your way through the bureaucracy, know the language, be familiar with the culture and know safety issues. Arubans have this knowledge at their fingertips. Here are a few examples from my own recent practice: "Arubans know that giving a hug or kiss, can sometimes be more appropriate

than shaking hands; that is something we Dutch are pretty awkward about. Arubans are fluent in Spanish; the average Dutchman could perhaps order a tortilla or coffee. Also Portuguese, I recall being with Minister Eman when we were in Rio and he started his speech in Portuguese...it made quite an impression. Flying to Venezuela from Aruba takes less than an hour, where it is at least a 9 hour flight from the Netherlands. For a Dutchman, Latin America is far away, both physically and emotionally, but Aruba...it feels like coming home. However, Arubans feel at home in Latin America, because they are part of the South American family."

The other area of concern, would South American entrepreneurs come to Aruba to do business with the Dutch, was answered by a large showing of hands from the more than 60 Latin and Caribbean companies with delegates at the conference.

"What can Aruba offer Dutch entrepreneurs?" is another important question, cited Smits.

Continued on pg 2

A fall in gas prizes as of today! Change in oil product prices

ORANJESTAD - The Ministry of Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs announces to the general public that as of today, Wednesday, May 8, 2013, there will be changes in different oil product prices.



- The new price for unleaded-premium gas will be 231.4 cent per liter, a decrease of **8.1 cents**.

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Smits and Brinkhorst answer the question "Why Aruba?"

continued from pg 1

Many Dutch visitors consider it a "fantastic holiday island. Excellent hotels, friendly staff...safe, affordable island. Adding in the cost of flights, it is less expensive the Cartagena, Colombia. If you put this question to a Latin American entrepreneur, they will say, and I have heard this from my Dutch colleagues as well, "Arubans are very reliable business partners; hard workers, they are smart people, have entrepreneurial spirit, and they are innovative in the areas of environment and green energy." A princi-

pal theme of the conference is "Aruba: the Green Gateway," the concept of commerce principally targeted by Europe Meets Americas being ventures dedicated to renewable energy and sustainability for the region.

Obvious additional factors is the appeal of the climate, but most importantly, a stable, reliable political atmosphere, and being a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, operating under Dutch law, which would provide investors protection all the way to the World Court in Den

Hague. "Arubans are proud they are a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and we are proud they are a part of the kingdom," said Smits.

"South America is growing at a very fast pace," he observed. "Five percent is not unusual on an annual growth rate, so every year, the markets are being increased by millions of relatively affluent consumers. This is something, I am afraid to say, we will not see in the Euro Zone for quite some time."

LATAM has agriculture and horticulture and vast, un-

tapped natural resources, but could use the assistance of Dutch expertise in technology in developing their infrastructure: roads, bridges, airports and more. Mr. Smits is convinced there are great opportunities for Dutch entrepreneurs at all levels, in this part of the world. "Aruba is a promising island," Smits concluded, "with great potential."

Following Simon Smits to the podium was Laurens Hans Brinkhorst. He described Latin America as "the new power center," with strongly emerging economies such as those of Brazil, Colombia and Panama, "just around the corner from Aruba. These emerging markets are something that 50 years ago, no one would have expected, to see Latin America with such drive and ambition."

"Just this past week, we saw President Obama come out with a very strong message that more trade and investment, not protectionism, is the key to the future; and the key to the development and future of the region."

"The other part of the theme of "Europe Meets America is "Europe," and it is

quite true that Europe is going through a very difficult period of adjustment. It is not only a question of the north or the south...it affects all European countries." He cited that people compare the economy to that of the 1980's, but one thing is obvious, entrepreneurs and investors "need to adapt," and looking back to 30 years ago is

"thoroughly unjustified...too much pessimism is unjustified. The last five years have seen great strengthening of fiscal discipline, but it is now generally recognized it is a time for new investments, foster growth and bring down the unacceptable high levels of unemployment, which is seriously affecting the futures of a new generation," asserted Brinkhorst.

The conclusion of these presentations marked a break in the proceedings, with guest speakers Jose Maria Figures, President of the Carbon War Room and Former Prime Minister of The Netherlands, Professor Jan Peter Balke-nende on the agenda for the remainder of morning.

By Rosalie Klein



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Europe Meets the Americas:

Jan Peter Balkenende: "Sustainability is a global issue and Aruba is the perfect Green Gateway"



Jan Peter Balkenende

The pressing issues of global warming, climate change, and the rapid poisoning of the atmosphere with CO2 emissions, are a strong theme of the Europe Meets the Americas Conference. The current administration of Aruba has worked hard to become a regional leader in policies which remedy this situation, setting a goal to be fossil fuel independent by 2020. For a small island, removing dependency for producing water and energy from oil, which is a very volatile and always increasingly expensive market, is simply smart, as well as good for the environment and global community.

Of course, how much difference could the consumption and emissions of one small island with a population of 102,000 make in the grand, global scheme of things? Perhaps not so noticeably, when scientists measure the impact of the reduced emissions, but as a testing ground for advanced renewable technologies, and an example to larger, richer countries which have greater resources to follow Aruba's example, it could, hopefully, inspire a trend for the region and the rest of the western hemisphere.

This is partly why a principal theme of the ongoing conference, a theme introduced by the Minister of Economic & Social Affairs and

Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar more than a year prior, is "Aruba; The Green Gateway." Entrepreneurs and investors seeking to instigate projects dedicated to harnessing renewable, "clean" energy sources, are particularly targeted during these three days of networking.

During the opening sessions, former Dutch Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2002-2010) Professor Jan Peter Balkenende, addressed the issue of doing business in a sustainable matter, and exactly what "being a good corporate citizen" really signifies.

Professor Balkenende opened his remarks by commenting on the inauguration of last week, with HRM King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima ascending the throne, largely because of their dedication and efforts regarding sustainability. HRM King Willem-Alexander is very active in water management, a recognized specialist, and Queen Maxima "is doing fantastic work in the sphere of micro-finance." "The Royal family has the Dutch isles of the Caribbean very much in their hearts and minds, and you can count on that," he observed, "sustainability is high on their agenda."

Balkenende examined the economic opportunities in Latin America, how to integrate sustainability into busi-

ness models, the role of Aruba, and the necessity of being concrete. Studies have revealed LATAM offers unique business opportunities in infrastructure, "which is not only about roads, but ports and airports. In fact, there are so many infrastructure projects...it is region of growth potential."

"This also involves energy, which is not only about oil and gas, but renewables. Bio-fuels are linked to sustainability; and there is agribusiness. Holland, which is a very small country, is the world's second larger exporter of agriculture products, and have the highest productivity, so you can imagine we are very interested in Latin America." He also sees a lot of potential in tourism.

"These four areas of development: infrastructure, energy, agri-business, and tourism, are all linked to the concept of sustainability" continued Balkenende. "Everyone in the world is talking about sustainability...but what is sustainability? Is it about environmental affairs and climate change? Yes it is, but it is much more than that. It is also about energy, human rights, its about community engagement, the organization of employees, financial sustainability and it is about integrity and transparency. These are key elements of sustainability, and wherever you are in the world, sustainability is high on the agenda."

He described how Japanese companies now look very closely at potential business partners and their sustainability practices, which they consider an added value to a company, "not a hindrance or barrier, but a business driver." He described how former, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak initiated the Green Growth Institute, based on the concept of "Low Carbon, Green Growth" as

Korea's new vision not only for his country, but for the world. This vision aimed to shift the current development paradigm of quantity-oriented, fossil-fuel dependent growth to quality-oriented growth with an emphasis on the use of new and renewable energy resources.

"The world is changing; you can see it in Europe. In The Netherlands, for example, we have a set of trade initiatives, and advisories to governments, businesses and NGO just to talk about how we can improve production and work within the sphere of sustainability."

Balkenende commented on the delusion that a business should consider itself "socially responsible" only

because they make charitable donations. "These companies should examine how they make their profits; if they do it by polluting the air and the ground, they are not taking into account human rights. Of course you can give money to charity, but the question is, "How are your profits being realized?"

By 2050 we will have a planet inhabited by 9 billion, with fossil fuel sources dwindling down and extremely scarce. "We must put sustainability high on the agenda," asserted Professor Balkenende. "We have to integrate sustainability into our business model, and we have to be concrete. This is a very fundamental issue."

By Rosalie Klein

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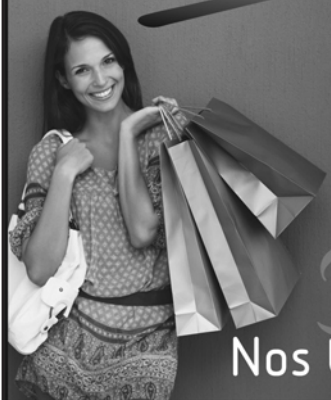
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House of Helmin Wiels searched for clues



Helmin Wiels

WILLEMSTAD, Curaçao – Helmin Wiels' house was thoroughly searched yesterday by the Investigation Team in charge of investigating the murder of the political leader. The team also looked for clues in his office in the

Parliament building in downtown Willemstad, his car and at the crime scene.

Three prosecutors are in charge of the case and were given orders to do the searches. Different items were seized during these searches which hopefully can give more clues as to who committed the murder or were ordered to commit the murder and also the motives behind this tragic incident that has left Curaçao paralyzed.

Wiels' body was also confiscated for autopsy as is prescribed by law in cases like these. Earlier rumors that a suspect was arrested, was immediately rejected by the police.

The Investigation Team consists of individuals of the Public Prosecution, the police, the Criminal Investigation Team, the Royal Military Police, the Coast Guard, the National Security Service (SKS) and the Special Tasks.

A close ally of a charismatic but divisive politician said Monday he believes the lawmaker was slain in some sort of politically motivated attack.

Donald Balentina, president of the Curaçao political

party founded by slain politician Helmin Wiels, said he thinks the fiery, populist lawmaker was targeted by gunmen due to politics. He noted that Wiels, a highly influential member of the coalition government, had made several anticorruption speeches in recent days and Friday publicly accused a local telecommunications company of being involved in the illegal sale of lottery numbers.

The always outspoken Wiels loomed large over the small island's political landscape. The leftist, proindependence Pueblo Soberano party he helped found emerged as the top vote getter in October elections, holding

five of 21 seats in Parliament in a coalition government.

There was some speculation that Wiels, a 54-year-old former social worker, could be chosen as the top official in a new Council of Ministers being worked out, although Balentina and other allies said he was not interested in gaining the top position.

Wiels was fatally shot Sunday on a public beach in broad daylight, sending shockwaves across Curaçao.

In a phone interview shortly after the shooting, Public Prosecutor Norman Serphos said witnesses reported seeing attackers shoot Wiels on the small beach and then speed off in a car. Nobody else was hurt and there had been no arrests.

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Pressure builds to split JPMorgan CEO, chair roles

NEW YORK (AFP) - A leading shareholder advisory group Tuesday urged JPMorgan Chase investors to end chief executive Jamie Dimon's tenure as chairman and fire a majority of the company's board after a \$6.2 billion trading loss.

Glass Lewis became the

second major proxy advisor in recent days to endorse splitting the chairman and chief executive roles at JPMorgan in the wake of the bank's "London whale" derivatives debacle.

ISS Proxy Advisory Services called for that action last week. CalPERS, which manages California government retirees accounts, also said Tuesday that it would vote to split the banks' chairman and chief executive roles.

The pressure came ahead of JPMorgan's annual meeting May 21 as questions about Dimon's fate hang over Wall Street.

After leading JPMorgan through the 2008 financial crisis in comparatively good shape, Dimon's star has dimmed after the multi-billion-dollar loss in early 2012 by a London-based unit trading complex derivatives for the bank's own book.

Glass Lewis said that separating the chairman from a role as a corporate officer "is almost always a positive change" because it curbs conflicts of interest, promotes

oversight of risk and generally better serves shareholder needs.

But Glass Lewis also took a swipe at Dimon over the London trading debacle.

"Given the massive trading losses at the company, we believe shareholders would benefit from independent board leadership to prevent such loss of shareholder value in the future," it said in a statement.

Glass Lewis also urged shareholders to fire six of JPMorgan's 11 independent directors, specifically the members of the audit and risk policy committees.

Audit committee members James Bell, Crandall Bowles and Laban Jackson "have not satisfactorily performed their duties," it said.

Similarly, Glass Lewis faulted risk committee members David Cote, James Crown and Ellen Futter for not seeking more information on the problem accounts and for not asking "sufficiently probing questions of management at committee meetings."

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Dalai Lama urges respect for non-religious

COLLEGE PARK (AFP) - The Dalai Lama on Tuesday called for the teaching of secular values in education, saying that it was critical for the world to respect all religions -- as well as the right not to believe.

Despite devoting his life to the study of Buddhism, Tibet's spiritual leader said he was convinced that all people -- and often even animals -- shared basic moral values regardless of their religion.

"In the West, there is some connotation that secular means a little negative, or disrespect, towards religion," the Dalai Lama told a packed arena at the University of Maryland at College Park in Washington's suburbs.

"But according to the Indian understanding, secular means respect for all religions -- and respect for non-believers," said the Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in India since 1959.

"That is the only way it can be acceptable to a whole universal level," he said.

The Dalai Lama said he was taking part in a project to craft a curriculum on universal ethics, which could be taught initially at a local level and eventually become part of a United Nations initiative.

"The whole world should in the education field include some sort of education about moral ethics. Not based on religion -- secular," he said.

Despite his global following, the Dalai Lama's travels are opposed by China, which accuses him of encouraging separatism and violence. The Dalai Lama says he is a pacifist and only seeks greater rights for Tibetans under Chinese rule.



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Three brothers arrested in stunning US kidnap

CLEVELAND (AFP) - US police searched an ordinary home in a working class neighborhood of Cleveland on Tuesday after three women who had been missing for around a decade were rescued from an alleged kidnapping.

Three brothers have been arrested in the midwestern city after one of the women managed to alert a neighbor who broke down the door to lead her and her six-year-old daughter to freedom.

Police responding to a desperate 911 emergency call found two more women in the unremarkable two-story home with an American flag on the porch. All had been reported missing in separate incidents around 10 years ago.

The women -- Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michele Knight -- were freed on Monday night and exam-

ined at a local hospital before being released to their families. The FBI was due to interview them.

Police confirmed that Berry, now 27, has a six-year-old daughter, apparently born while she was in captivity.

The three Ohio women were abducted separately in 2002, 2003 and 2004 but were found together in the home of 52-year-old Ariel Castro, not far from where each disappeared.

Castro and his brothers -- Pedro, 54, and Onil, 50 -- have been detained. Police mugshots revealed them to be thick-set men with gray beards.

Cleveland Director of Public Safety Martin Flask said police had not been alerted to anything untoward happening at the house on Seymour Avenue.

The nightmare ended when Berry -- kidnapped 10 years

ago just before her 17th birthday -- reached through a crack in the front door and called for help.

"I heard screaming ... and I see this girl going nuts trying to get outside of the house," neighbor Charles Ramsey told a local ABC news affiliate. "I go on the porch, and she said, 'Help me get out. I've been here a long time'."

Ramsey said he could not pull the door open, so he kicked out a lower section and she crawled through carrying a little girl.

Berry went to a neighboring home and called police, begging them to come as soon as they could -- "before he gets back" -- according to a recording of her 911 call to emergency services.

When police arrived, she said two other women were being held captive.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US immigration reform would cost \$6.3 trillion

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A US political battle raged Monday over the cost of Senate-proposed immigration reform, with a conservative think-tank warning the plan to legalize 11 million undocumented workers would soar to \$6.3 trillion.

The Heritage Foundation, in a report released shortly before amendments are proposed to the bipartisan bill, said legalized immigrants' costs such as Social Security, Medicaid health care for the poor, and unemployment insurance would stack up dramatically faster than many US lawmakers would realize.

The report is certain to galvanize some conservatives in Congress who are opposed to the plan, seen as the most ambitious immigration reform effort in a generation and which was rolled out last month by a "Gang of Eight" senators, four Democrats and four Republicans.

President Barack Obama envisions immigration reform as a major and viable second-term accomplishment, after Republicans who lost last November's election said it was crucial to reach out to minority communities such as Hispanics, the largest beneficiaries of any immigration deal.

But Heritage said the millions of immigrants who

would be legalized through "amnesty" would generate massive fiscal deficits over the long term, driven in large part by extra pressures on health care for low-income Americans, public education and services like police, fire and roads.

The bill creates a path to citizenship for the estimated 11.5 million people living in the country illegally, but under certain conditions like tighter border enforcement and after a 13-year wait, during which time they will not be entitled to government aid.

The foundation's study argued that while illegal aliens will start to pay taxes once they register legally, when they become citizens they will be net recipients of government funds.

It said the legalized immigrants would receive those benefits for five decades, if their retirement pension is included, with their cost to government coffers pegged at \$9.4 trillion, while they will pay just \$3.1 trillion in taxes.

Report co-author Robert Rector warned that the costs jump to about \$160 billion per year about 35 years from today, when the bulk of the legalized immigrants reach retirement age.

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Health

China reports four more deaths, 129 bird flu cases

BEIJING (AFP) - The death toll from the H7N9 bird flu outbreak in China has risen to 31, according to official figures, with four more people dying of the virus in China's eastern provinces.

The number of people infected also increased to 129, official statistics showed, up two since week-end.

The four new deaths included two from Jiangsu province and one each from Zhejiang and Anhui, according to figures from China's Health and Family Planning Commission released late Monday.

No further details on the deaths were revealed by the commission.

The virus was first reported in late March, with most cases confined to eastern China, and only one reported outside the mainland, in Taiwan.

Experts fear the possibility of the virus mutating into a form easily transmissible between humans, with the potential to trigger a pandemic.

But the World Health Organization has said there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission.

Basic disinfectant could halt bird flu spread

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Live poultry markets can act as hotbeds for H5N1 bird flu, but simple measures such as disinfecting trucks, equipment and market space could help stop the virus from spreading, researchers said Monday.

A team of French, British and Vietnamese researchers interviewed vendors at live bird markets in northern Vietnam and tracked how outbreaks could move as if via social network, even into remote areas.

Measures that require mass culling of birds or the shut-down of live bird markets are ineffective, argued the researchers in the US journal the Proceedings of the National

Academy of Sciences.

Daily disinfection was shown to reduce the median epidemic size, or the fraction of contaminated markets, by 80 to 89 percent, said the study.

The H5N1 virus has killed more than 370 people around the world, according to the World Health Organization, and scientists fear it could mutate into a form readily transmissible between humans.

The WHO has said so far there is no evidence of human-to-human transmission but has warned H7N9 is "one of the most lethal" influenza viruses ever seen, and urged travelers against contact with live poultry.



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300,000 day-old babies die each year in India: report

NEW DELHI (AFP) - More than 300,000 babies die within 24 hours of being born in India each year from infections and other preventable causes, a report said Tuesday, blaming a lack of political will and funding for the crisis.

India accounts for 29 percent of all newborn deaths worldwide, according to the charity Save the Children which published the findings at the launch of its annual State of the World's Mothers report. The report on 186 countries showed South Asia -- which accounts for 24 percent of the world's population -- recording 40 percent of the world's first-day deaths.

Bangladesh and Pakistan also have large numbers of yearly first-day deaths at 28,000 and 60,000 with chronic malnourishment of mothers one of the major fac-

tors for the fatalities in the region.

The charity identified three major causes of newborn deaths -- complications during birth, prematurity and infections -- and said access to low-cost, life-saving interventions could cut down the figures by as much as 75 percent.

A decade of rapid economic growth has allowed India to boost spending on poor and rural communities but Save the Children said most such programmes had not benefited those most in need.

More than half of all Indian women give birth without the help of skilled health care professionals, leading to infections and complications.

In far-flung areas, doctors and hospitals are rare and villagers often put the health of their children in the hands of poorly trained substitutes.

But even in cities such as New Delhi with relatively better healthcare facilities women are delivering at home, said Sharmila Lal, a Delhi-based gynaecologist.

Lal said India must invest in creating a pool of paramedical staff trained in childbirth to take the load off doctors "who often don't have time or patience to explain simple life-saving measures to expectant mothers".

The charity said the problem of infant mortality could be addressed by closing the equity gap in a developing country like India where economic benefits have been shared unequally.

"If all newborns in India experienced the same survival rates as newborns from the richest Indian families, nearly 360,000 more babies would survive each year," the report said.



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Sci-Tech

Scientists may have found Brazilian 'Atlantis'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian geologists on Monday announced the discovery, 1,500 kilometers (900 miles) from Rio, of what could be part of the continent submerged when the Atlantic Ocean was formed as Africa and South America drifted apart 100 million years ago.

Roberto Ventura Santos, a top official at Brazil's Geology Service (CPRM), said granite samples were found two years ago during dredging operations in an area known as "Rio Grande Elevation", a mountain range in Brazilian and international waters.

Granite is seen as a continental rock.

"This could be the Brazilian Atlantis. We are almost certain but we must bolster our hypothesis. We will have final (scientific) recognition this year when we conduct drilling in the area to retrieve more samples of these rocks," the G1 news website quoted Ventura as saying.

Initially, the scientists thought they were mistaken, Ventura noted.

But last month, their case was bolstered when team of Brazilian and Japanese scientists aboard Japan's manned research submersible Shinkai 6500, observed the underwater geological formation located opposite the Brazilian coast, he added.

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Scented underpants for men, a 'Made in France' special

PARIS (AFP) - A company that specialises in "Made in France" underwear has raised nearly 19,000 euros (\$25,000) from enthusiastic investors banking on its next titillating creation -- sweet-smelling underpants for men.

The so-called "Indomitable" briefs will be manufactured by "Le Slip Francais", a company set up in 2011 by 27-year-old Guillaume Gibault, who decided to bank on a trend for all things made in France to sell underwear.

"You want to change the world, you want to change things, start by changing your underpants!" the firm writes on crowdfunding website www.mymajorcompany.com, where it has already raised close to 19,000 euros.

The idea behind crowdfunding is that anyone on the Internet can contribute money to a project, in some cases in exchange for shares in a company or other rewards.

Gibault told AFP the briefs will be scented thanks to micro-capsules full of home-made perfume that will be incorporated into the cotton used to make the underpants in the Lille region of northern France.

As soon as the lucky owner of the briefs moves around, the capsules will release the perfume and the scent will last up to 30 washes, he says.

"It's quite a masculine perfume, not very strong, based on musk and pears," he said.

"Le Slip Francais" has become something of a success story in France, which is suffering badly from lack of competitiveness and a general perception of hostility towards business owners and entrepreneurs.

The firm has so far sold some 20,000 of its red, white, blue and black briefs, and plans to develop its presence abroad, with Japanese people proving to be particularly enthusiastic clients.

Gibault says the company is already profitable, adding that the whole project shows "that we are capable of innovating in France".

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

A	S	A		E	T	C	H		T	O	E
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U	N	E			O	N	E	A	L		S
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Microsoft says Windows 8 update coming this year

NEW YORK (AFP) - Microsoft said Tuesday it has sold more than 100 million licenses for the Windows 8 operating system launched six months ago, and will release an updated version later this year.

"Windows Blue is a code name for an update that will be available later this year, building on the bold vision set forward with Windows 8 to deliver the next generation of tablets and PCs," said Microsoft chief marketing officer Tami Reller in a blog post.

"It will deliver the latest new innovations across an increasingly broad array of form factors of all sizes, display, battery life and performance, while creating new opportunities for our ecosystem."

She added that Windows Blue "is part of a broader effort to advance our devices and services for Microsoft."

Reller noted that "we recently surpassed the 100 million licenses sold mark for Windows 8," including for new devices and upgrades. That is up from 60 million in the latest company update in January.

Commenting on the lukewarm response to Windows 8, Reller said the new operating system "is a big, ambitious change."

"While we realize that change takes time, we feel good

about the progress since launch, including what we've been able to accomplish with the ecosystem and customer reaction to the new PCs and tablets that are available now or will soon come to market," she added.

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PICKLES



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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Grasped

5. Certain upper-classmen (abbr.)

8. Singer Davis

11. Pack freight

12. Oil cartel (abbr.)

13. Pulverized lava

14. Beach bag

15. Actress Theda

16. Chinese chairman

17. JFK's vice president

19. Abner Yokum's creator (2 wds.)

21. "Whoa, ___!"

24. New (prefix)

25. WSW's opp.

26. Baseball playoffs mo.

28. Till fillers

32. State emphatically

34. Tic-___ (breath mint)

36. Fur skin

37. Small child

38. Candidate, for short

40. Clock's three

41. Lackland, for one (abbr.)

44. Comedian Dennis ___

46. "___ 13"

49. Baseballer Ott

50. Fergie's

firstborn

51. Cedar Rapids state

53. Had debts

57. Middle (abbr.)

58. Gps. that organize book sales and bake sales

59. Boo-Boo's buddy

60. Courtroom figures (abbr.)

61. Introverted

62. Gloom and ___

DOWN

1. Early '50s Pres.

2. DDE's military arena

3. Parking place

4. Reside

5. Mineral spring

6. Aired anew

7. Weighing machine

8. Doll's word

9. "Stat!"

10. ___ suey

12. Thing

18. Life (prefix)

20. Home for hens

21. In order

22. Resentful jealousy

23. Onionlike vegetable

27. Strike lightly

29. Singer Sedaka

30. Author Wiesel

31. Start to awaken

33. ___ estate

35. Punctuation marks

39. Falsehood

42. ___ one's lid

43. Diner seating preference

45. Beau Bridges's dad

46. First four letters

47. Animal rights gp.

48. Boathouse items

52. Course

54. Go a-courting

55. Alter ___

56. Vague

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		5	3				6	
2	6			4				5
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5				6			1	2
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7				9	4			
	8		2			1	5	

SOLUTION

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9	7	6	1	8	5	2	4	3
2	1	5	8	9	7	4	6	3
8	9	2	5	6	7	3	1	4
5	6	7	3	4	1	8	9	2
1	9	4	6	2	3	5	7	8
6	2	5	9	7	8	3	1	4
7	3	8	1	5	4	6	2	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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FINANCE

Top China bank shuts key N. Korea account

BEIJING (AFP) - The state-owned Bank of China has shut the account of a North Korean bank accused by the United States of supporting the North's nuclear programme, Dow Jones Newswires said.

The closure would be the first openly acknowledged move by an institution in China -- the North's key backer -- against North Korean interests in the current stand-off, which escalated in February with Pyongyang's third atomic test.

But the details of the move were not revealed, and an analyst warned it would not likely contravene China's long-standing approach of supporting its unruly neighbour to avoid provoking regional instability.

The Bank of China is one of the country's biggest state-owned banks and is subject to political directives from Chinese authorities.

Washington imposed sanctions on the North Korean organisation, Pyongyang's primary foreign-exchange bank, after the latest nuclear blast.

It has urged China -- which is the North's largest trade partner and biggest food and energy supplier -- to do more to contain its smaller neighbour.

When US Secretary of State John Kerry visited Beijing last month, the two countries vowed to work together to try to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula, but gave no details.

In one indication of China's support for North Korea, trade between the two countries nearly tripled in the five years to 2011 to \$5.6 billion, figures compiled by the South Korean government showed last December.

China accounted for 70.1 percent of the North's entire external trade of \$8.0 billion, up from 41.7 percent in 2007.

US sanctions ban any American individual, business or organisation from conducting transactions with a number of named entities in an effort to cut them off from international trade.

Dow Jones said the Bank of China did not provide further details in its statement and declined additional comment. The bank could not be reached for comment by AFP.

Former British finance minister calls for EU exit

LONDON (AFP) - Britain should leave the European Union, former finance minister Nigel Lawson argued Tuesday, fuelling the debate about a referendum on British membership.

Writing in The Times newspaper, Lawson said Britain would get a big economic boost if it left the EU and insisted the "the case for exit" was now clear.

Lawson is the most senior member of Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative Party to call for Britain to pull out of the EU.

The Thatcher-era heavyweight said the economic gains from a British exit "would substantially outweigh the costs" and argued that the EU had become a "bureaucratic monstrosity".

He warned that the idea of "a federal European superstate" was "profoundly misguided" and "certainly not for us".

Lawson also claimed that an exit would save Britain's valuable financial sector from a "frenzy of regulatory activism".

Cameron has promised to hold a referendum on EU membership after the next general election in 2015, but is being urged to bring it forward by members of his own party.

The pressure to do so has increased following big gains made by the eurosceptic and anti-immigration United Kingdom Independence Party in local elections last week.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, leader of the pro-EU Liberal Democrat junior partners in the governing coalition, claimed leaving the bloc would put three million jobs in danger.

Brazil's Azevedo - WTO new leader

GENEVA (AFP) - Brazil's Roberto Azevedo has beaten Mexican veteran Herminio Blanco in the race to become the new leader of the World Trade Organization, sources close to the process said yesterday.

Azevedo, currently Brazil's ambassador to the 159-nation WTO, pipped the former Mexican trade chief in a final round, the sources said, after seven other candidates stumbled earlier in the contest.

Azevedo and Blanco's campaign teams emerged tight-lipped from a meeting behind closed doors with Pakistan's WTO ambassador Shahid Bashir, who heads its Governing General Council.

Along with his counterparts from Canada and Sweden, Bashir has spent weeks gauging countries' views on who is likely to muster the most support.

The current head of the WTO, Frenchman Pascal Lamy, is due to step down on September 1 after two four-year terms at the helm.

His successor will face the tough task of trying to breathe life into the WTO's moribund "Doha Round" of trade liberalisation talks, launched in 2001 with the goal of using international commerce to boost development in poorer member states.

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Cas Animal Cont'd

Dog lovers come forward to aid a foundation in crisis



--Many who have followed our heartwarming stories of the work of Cas Animal founder Kirsten Arndt and her many successes in rescuing stray and abandoned dogs, will be distressed to discover that Kiki, as she is known to her many friends, is in desperate straits.

A couple of weeks ago we reported on her having emergency surgery to remove a

tumor from her spine, which was crippling her. A call went out to help by adopting some dogs she had at Contreras Veterinary Clinic, as she is too ill to care for them, and a welcome response resulted in two new adoptions and some donations to assist with their care.

Unfortunately, we have sad news to report. Kiki's tumor could not be fully re-

moved, and parts are still pressing on her spinal cord. Her neurologist insists she must go to Bogota, Colombia for a specialized procedure that will remove the remaining tumor, and give her relief.

Unfortunately, a snafu of some kind with her registration at the census office is interfering with her being able to have it covered by the AZV national health insurance, and Kiki had to pay all her hospital costs and doctor fees out of her fund for building Aruba's first no-kill dog shelter. Most of this money was accumulated from her selling off all her personal possessions, and she really does not wish to touch it for her personal needs, her one wish is to see the shelter built. Her frustra-

tion is even greater because she had just obtained all the building permits when she was laid low by this unexpected health problem.

Presently, Kiki has been informed she has no government assistance for the trip and operation to Colombia, until the matter of her residency is cleared up, which is a complicated matter. Additionally, each day the procedure is delayed means the likely enlargement of the remaining tumor, which could paralyze her lungs or heart. She has already lost use of her legs and has limited function of her arms.

Friends of Cas Animal Foundation have donated a total of \$3,000 towards her trip to Bogota, but another \$8,000 is needed for the operation and plane ticket. Anyone wishing to help is welcome to contact Sarita of Gemstones International, a

dog lover who admired Kiki and how she has selflessly dedicated her life to the mistreated and abandoned dogs of Aruba and has personally contributed \$2,000 to the cause. **Sarita can be contacted at 564-9265 by anyone wishing to make a donation.**

Every little bit helps, and Kiki wishes to express her heartfelt gratitude to Bhardi of Palais Oriental and sisters Jalyn and Jamelyn, who were happy to make a donation on behalf of their mother, Rodelyn, Kiki's ward mate at the hospital, who was so moved by her situation.

For updates on the situation, and more about Cas Animal and the foundation's important work, visit the Cas Animal Aruba Facebook page.

by Rosalie Klein

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Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when

complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great

demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Grandma's classic Stew beef with Rice and Potato salad

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varela Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal

clientele. Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients

that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin,



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local.

They are open daily, from 11:00 am to 11:00pm, Telf: 5860606 and email: saus.arubancuisine@live.com, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!

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SPORTS

Football: Chievo win hits Roma's Europa League hopes

MILAN (AFP) - Frenchman Cyril Thereau scored a 90th-minute volley for Serie A minnows Chievo to secure a 1-0 win over Roma and upset the capital club's hopes of Europa League football next season.

Roma remain in fifth place on 58 points but risk being overtaken by Udinese (57) if the northerners win at Palermo on Wednesday when Lazio, in seventh on 55, will look to draw level with their city foes.

"We stuttered through the first half but we should have finished the game earlier," lamented Roma coach Aurelio Andreazzoli.

Chievo, meanwhile, achieved their aim of pulling far enough away from the relegation zone to secure top-flight football next season.

Roma's reserve 'keeper Bogdan Lobont started despite fracturing his nose in the 1-0

away win to Fiorentina on Saturday because number one Maarten Stekelenburg is still injured.

Andreazzoli, meanwhile, left some regulars on the bench, including striker Erik Lamela and American midfielder Michael Bradley, as he tested a 3-4-1-2 system and a new front pairing of Pablo Osvaldo and Mattia Destro.

Chievo, who were looking to pull away from the relegation zone, came out on top, at least in defensive terms, after a fairly balanced first half in which Roma shaded the visitors for the few real scoring chances created.

Chievo 'keeper Cristian Puggioni was alert to prevent a threatening cross from reaching Destro, while Ivan Piris's cut-back from the by-line following Francesco Totti's smart through-ball set up Osvaldo,

only for Puggioni to get low to smother the striker's snap shot.

In the dying seconds of the half Totti sent a free-kick through a hole in the defensive wall to force Puggioni to block.

Thereau came close for the visitors moments after the restart, but it was Roma who were most frustrated after missing a hatful of chances.

Destro showed great control on the edge of the area by avoiding two tackles, but Puggioni did well to collect the striker's shot.

As the match wound down to a close Roma crucially failed to pick up Senegalese defender Boukary Drame as he charged down the left and when he whipped in a cross from the left it beat the Roma defence and allowed Thereau to poke home.

Racing: Al Zarooni appeals eight-year doping ban

LONDON (AFP) - Former Godolphin trainer Mahmood Al Zarooni has lodged an appeal to reduce the length of his eight-year suspension for doping offences, the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) announced on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old Emirati was found to have given banned anabolic steroids to 15 horses - who have been barred from racing for six months - at his stables at British racing headquarters in Newmarket, eastern England, at a BHA hearing last month.

Godolphin told AFP that it was a matter between Al Zarooni and the BHA.

"He is no longer a Godolphin employee and the appeal is a matter between himself and the BHA. Godolphin has no involvement with this appeal," a spokesperson said.

Al Zarooni's surprising deci-

sion to appeal will nevertheless not be music to the ears of Godolphin's founder, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, who made it clear at the time of the revelations how 'appalled and angry' he was that he and Godolphin had been tainted by such a scandal.

The 63-year-old Sheikh - who was present at Newmarket last Saturday to see Godolphin's crack Irish-trained colt Dawn Approach win the English 2000 Guineas - had ordered al Zarooni's 200-horse stable to be locked down until further notice and was in no hurry to appoint a trainer as his replacement.

Al Zarooni, who had made a good start to his tenure as a Godolphin trainer with victory in last year's Dubai World Cup and English St Leger, looks to have little reason for optimism given the BHA's stern assessment of his behaviour when they released their full judgement last week.

"This was a widespread systematic misuse of illegal substances which are absolutely prohibited under the rules," they said.

Since the scandal broke the BHA have conducted tests on all the horses at Al Zarooni's stables and their results should be revealed early next week.

In his appearance before the BHA hearing, Al Zarooni also implicated a junior vet and two Godolphin stable foremen, while the BHA said that they had no plans to formally interview Sheikh Mohammed.

In a brief statement released on Tuesday, the BHA said Al Zarooni had decided to contest the length of his ban, adding that a date for the appeal hearing would be announced in due course.

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NBA: Second-round playoff results

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - Manu Ginobili's three-pointer with 1.2 seconds left lifted San Antonio to a 129-127 double overtime win over Golden State as the Spurs rallied from a 16-point deficit in the fourth to win the series opener.

Ginobili's late heroics capped a furious comeback by the Spurs and spoiled a 44-point performance from Warriors' Stephen Curry in Monday's game, one of their National Basketball Association second-round series.

"I was wide open so I didn't have any options," Ginobili said. "Good timing though."

The Spurs fell behind 104-88 with 4:31 left in the fourth

before storming back to force overtime. They wiped out the 16-point deficit with an 18-2 run to close the fourth quarter.

In the second overtime, Ginobili found himself left wide open on the left side. He nailed the three-pointer with 1.2 seconds left after taking a cross-court pass from teammate Kawhi Leonard.

Argentina's Ginobili had missed seven consecutive shots before draining the game winner.

Curry put on a shooting clinic during one three-minute stretch in the third. He scored 12 unanswered points for Golden State who built an 18-point lead. Curry had 22 of his 44 points in the third quarter.

"You should win but we are not the first team to lose a game like this," Warriors coach Mark Jackson said. "It doesn't mean we are going to accept it."

Golden State's Kent Bazemore converted on a driving layup under the basket to give the Warriors a one-point lead with four seconds left in the second overtime.

But instead of holding up, it set the stage for Ginobili's game winner.

While in Miami, Nate Robinson scored the go-ahead jumpshot with 1:18 left as the Chicago Bulls scored the final 10 points en route to a 93-86 win over reigning champions Miami in the opener of their NBA playoff series.

Robinson, who was bloodied in the first half after a collision with LeBron James, carried the visiting Bulls on his back down the stretch by scoring the final seven points Monday to give the Bulls a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Robinson finished with 27 points and nine assists for the injury-riddled Bulls, who had snapped the Heat's 27-game

winning streak during the regular season and handed them their first loss in their last 13 games on Monday.

Robinson played with 10 stitches in his mouth after hitting his face on floor. He left the game to get medical attention but returned later.

Miami will host game two Wednesday where the Heat will try to get a split of their two games at home to begin the second-round series.

The Bulls bottled up James late in the fourth as they appear to have developed a formula this season for beating the mighty Heat. The Bulls finished the contest on a 10-0 run.

Tennis: Djokovic eliminated by Dimitrov at Madrid Masters



MADRID (AFP) - World No.1 Novak Djokovic was knocked out in the second round of the Madrid Masters on Tuesday as 21-year-old Grigor Dimitrov produced the performance of his career to date to win 7-6 (8/6), 6-7 (8/10), 6-3 in just over three hours. Dimitrov took the first set in controversial circumstances as he benefited from an overrule when serving set-point down at 4-5 before eventually taking it on a tie-break. The Bulgarian then fluffed a match point as the second set also went all the way to a tie-break, but regained his composure to break the Serb twice in the final set to seal it 6-3.

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Tennis: Federer, Murray, Serena through to 3rd round

MADRID (AFP) - Roger Federer made a winning return after a two-month absence from the court as he cruised to a 6-3, 6-3 win over Radek Stepanek to move into the third round of the Madrid Open on Tuesday.

Andy Murray also claimed a victory but was made to struggle at times by World No.26 Florian Mayer, before coming through in two tie-breaks.

Earlier, Serbian World No.9 Janko Tipsarevic became the first seed in the men's event to fall on Tuesday morning as he was beaten by clay court specialist Juan Monaco 7-5, 6-3.

And eighth seed Richard Gasquet also suffered an early exit as the Frenchman was beaten 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 by Spaniard Daniel Gimeno-Traver.

World No.15 Stanislas Wawrinka, however, continued his fine form after winning the Portugal Open last week with a comfortable 6-4, 6-4 win over Romanian qualifier Marius Copil.

In the women's event World No.1 Serena Williams eased into the third round with a 6-2, 7-5 win over Spain's Lourdes Dominguez Lino.

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Cycling: Battaglin wins Giro thriller, Wiggins loses time

SERRA SAN BRUNO, Italy, (AFP) - Enrico Battaglin claimed his maiden Giro d'Italia stage on Tuesday with fellow Italian Luca Paolini retaining the leader's pink jersey and race favourite Bradley Wiggins losing time to rivals after an epic 246km of racing from Policastro to Serra San Bruno.

Battaglin, who rides for the Bardiani team, surged out of a small group of survivors from the day's second and last climb to sprint to a well-earned victory after nearly 6hr 15min of racing to the southernmost point of the Giro's 96th edition.

Minutes earlier, Danilo Di Luca, the Giro winner in 2007, belied his 37 years to launch an audacious attack on the final kilometres of the second and last climb and race into the lead with young Colombian Robinson Chalapud.

The pair came over the summit with barely 20secs on the main peloton but, despite Di Luca's efforts on the rain-hit finale, the pair were agonisingly caught inside the final kilometre.

Katusha veteran Paolini, who took the race lead with victory on stage three on Monday, was just behind and crossed the finish line in the company of overall victory hopefuls Vincenzo Nibali, Cadel Evans and Ryder Hesjedal.

Tour de France champion Wiggins was held up by a crash involving Italian Cristian Salerno on the approach to the final kilometre. Race rules normally dictate that riders caught up in such incidents in the final three kilometres are not penalised.

However the race jury said after the stage that Wiggins had not been hindered by the crash, thus attributing him with his initial finishing time.

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